

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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R 281228Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9210
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, MOPS, PINT, ET
SUBJ: ARAB CHARGES OF ETHIOPIAN GENOCIDE

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA 3265; B) ADDIS ABABA 3291

1. WE HAVE HEARD WESTERN RADIO BROADCASTS REPORTING ARAB CHARGES THAT THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY OFFENSIVE IN NORTHERN ETHIOPIA IS NOTHING SHORT OF GENOCIDE. SUCH A STATEMENT WAS MOST RECENTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE KUWAITI DELEGATION ATTENDING THE NON-ALIGNED MEETING IN BELGRADE.

2. FOR THE RECORD, WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY IS ENGAGED IN ATROCITIES DIRECTED AGAINST EITHER THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OR CAPTURED SECESSIONIST MILITARY. LOSSES ARE PERHAPS HEAVY ON BOTH THE ETHIOPIAN AND SECESSIONIST MILITARY SIDES. DUE TO THE LARGE AMOUNT OF HEAVY CALIBER, LONG RANGE SOVIET-SUPPLIED ARTILLERY BEING USED IN THE PRESENT OFFENSIVE, LOSSES AMONG THE CIVILIAN POPULATION IN THE
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OPERATIONS ZONE MAY BE HEAVY, BUT ARE NOT, ACCORDING TO ANY INFORMATION PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO US, BEING CAUSED BY INDISCRIMINATE SHELLING OF CIVILIAN TARGETS.

3. THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA HAS REPEATEDLY STRESSED THE RELIEF, REHABILITATION, CIVIC ACTION AND POLITICIZING ROLE OF ITS FORCES IN CAPTURED SECESSIONIST AREAS.

EXAMPLES OF SUCH REPORTS INCLUDE "THE REHABILITATION OF DIS-
PLACED COMPATRIOTS AND THE REBUILDING OF ECONOMIC LIFE IN
THE AREA (BY THE 502 TASK FORCE IN GASH-SETIT PROVINCE)" AND
"THE MEN-IN-UNIFORM (OF THE 2ND REVOLUTIONARY ARMY) FOLLOW
UP THEIR VICTORIES BY ENGAGING IN CIVIC ACTIVITIES ORGANIZ-
ING THE MASSES BY POLITICIZING THEM AND SHARING THEIR PRO-
VISIONS AS WELL AS HELPING IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEASANTS,
URBAN AND OTHER MASS ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING WORKERS' UNIONS."
INTERVIEWS WITH SURRENDERED EPLF SOLDIERS, DETAILING THEIR
GOOD TREATMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT, HAVE ALSO BEEN FEATURED.
WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT RELEIF & REHABILITATION COMMISSIONER
SHEMELIS ADUGNA, IS ALREADY PLANNING TO GO ALL THE WAY BY
ROAD TO ASMARA JULY 29, ANOTHER INDICATION OF ETHIOPIA
GOVERNMENT CONCERN FOR POPULATIONS IN MOST RECENTLY WAR-
TORN AREA.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT FULLY REAL-
IZES THE NEED TO RESOLVE THE ERITREAN SECESSION ULTIMATELY
BY POLITICAL MEANS, AND THAT AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF ITS
MILITARY OFFENSIVE IS TO WEAN FORMER SECESSIONISTS AND THE
CIVIL POPULATION TO ITS SIDE. WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT
THAT IT IS MAKING A SERIOUS EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY
AT AND JUST BEHIND THE FRONT. WILL ADVISE AS ANY HARD COR-
ROBORATIVE OR CONTRADICTORY INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT
BECOMES AVAILABLE.

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT/NOT PASSED HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

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